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Division of Teaching and Learning Programs and Services
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TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: George A. Coleman, Associate Commissioner

DATE: September 27, 2005

SUBJECT: Public Act No. 05-134, *An Act Concerning Restaurant Safety*

One of the laws that the Connecticut General Assembly recently passed was Public Act No. 05-134, *An Act Concerning Restaurant Safety*. Section 1 of this legislation applies to all food service establishments, which includes school food service operations, and provides the following:

Not later than **October 1, 2005**, each food service establishment in the state shall acquire a sign that describes how to recognize the signs of choking and that addresses appropriate procedures to be taken if a patron of a food service establishment is choking. Such sign shall be conspicuously displayed in such food service establishment within an area where food operators and any other employee of a food service establishment can readily view such sign and such food operators and employees of such food service establishment shall become familiar with the contents of such sign. Nothing this section shall be construed to apply to any catering food service establishment or any itinerant food vending establishment.

Some schools may already have these signs posted in their serving/food service area. However, for those schools that do not, school districts will need to ensure that a sign is clearly posted addressing the steps to be taken if someone is choking. The law does not specify which choking poster needs to be displayed but the poster must describe how to recognize the signs of choking and the necessary steps to be taken if someone is choking. One source of choking posters for purchase is the American Red Cross. To locate your local American Red Cross you may go to their website: <http://www.redcross.org/> and type in your zip code.

Questions pertaining to this memorandum may be directed to Maureen Staggenborg at 860-807-2070 or Teri Dandeneau at 860-807-2079.

GAC:CRTDd

cc: School Nutrition Directors